NNNNVV ESA106MJC859
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DE RUSBLK #4889 1760945
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P R 25?842Z JUN 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4458
INFO RUSBGD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8942
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1694
RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 6987
RUQMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 0267
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4889

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Pol
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E.O. 12065: GDS 6/25/85 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCE) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, UP, AF, PINR
SUBJ: (C) MEETING WITH SOVIET DIPLOMAT: PART II OF III - SOVIET-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 4888

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY. THE MOST INTERESTING COMMENTS SAFRONCHUK MADE DURING OUR MEETING RELATED TO SOVIET-AFGHAN RELATIONS, SPECIFICALLY HIS DENIAL THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER BRINGING IN SOVIET TROOPS TO SAVE THE DPA. SAFRONCHUK QUOTED LENIN AS SAYING, "EVERY REVOLUTION MUST DEFEND ITSELF." END SUMMARY.

3. DURING OUR DISCUSSION OF THE INSURGENCY, I TOLD HIM THAT THERE WAS SPECULATION IN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS THAT HIS GOVT WOULD, IF NECESSARY, BRING IN TROOPS TO SUPPORT THE DRA. SAFRONCHUK DENIED ANY SUCH INTENTION. HE REFERRED TO BREZHNEV'S JUNE 11 SPEECH IN MOSCOW, IN WHICH THE LATTER SAID, "WE SHALL NOT ABANDON IN TROUBLE OUR FRIENDS - THE AFGHAN PEOPLE," BUT EXPLAINED THAT IN SAYING THAT, "BREZHNEV DID NOT MEAN TO IMPLY THIS INCLUDED MILITARY INTERVENTION." SAFRONCHUK WENT ON TO REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES THAT LENIN HAD SAID, "EVERY REVOLUTION MUST DEFEND ITSELF."

4. PURSUING HIS THEME, HE SAID THAT WERE THE SOVIETS TO BRING IN TROOPS, THIS WOULD HAVE BAD REPERCUSSIONS INTERNATIONALLY. HE EXPLAINED, "IT WOULD HARM SALT AND THE POSITION OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE WORLD," HE THEN ADDED, "QUITE ASIDE FROM INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS, IT WOULD BE BAD POLICY IN TERMS OF INTERNAL AFGHAN AFFAIRS." I OBSERVED THAT SOVIET TROOPS WOULD HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME IN THIS RUGGED, MOUNTAINOUS COUNTRY. HE NODDED HIS HEAD VIGOROUSLY.

5. ENLARGING ON SOVIET POLICY, HE SAID, "LIKE YOUR COUNTRY, OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE HERE IS TO PROMOTE REGIONAL STABILITY" (HE MUST HAVE STUDIED SOME OF OUR POLICY STATEMENTS). "WHAT WE WISH TO SEE," HE SAID, "IS A PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL AFGHANISTAN."

6. WHAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, HE CONTINUED, WAS TO ELIMINATE ILLITERACY. IF EVERYBODY COULD BE LITERATE AND ACHIEVE A BASIC EDUCATION, THAT WOULD BE THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN. THEN HE COMPLAINED, "INSTEAD, THE AFGHANS KEEP ASKING US FOR MORE AND MORE ARMS - NOT FOR MORE HELP IN EDUCATION."

7. IN RESPONSE, I CONFIRMED THAT IT HAD BEEN LONG-STANDING AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS AFGHANISTAN TO PROMOTE STABILITY IN THE REGION. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AFGHANISTAN AT PEACE WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORS, NOT ONLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION, BUT ALSO WITH IRAN, PAKISTAN AND CHINA. FOR DECADES TOO, WE HAVE HAD A HUMANITARIAN INTEREST HERE, INVESTING ROUGHLY $20 MILLION PER ANNUM IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. TO THE EXTENT THE AFGHANS COULD UPLIFE THEMSELVES SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY, WE BELIEVED THIS WOULD PROMOTE STABILITY. SAFRONCHUK AGREED.

8. I ALSO TOLD SAFRONCHUK THAT AS A COROLLARY TO OUR POLICY OF WORKING FOR REGIONAL STABILITY, WE HOPED THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD NOT BECOME AN AREA OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. TO THIS SAFRONCHUK RESPONDED, "I AGREE WITH YOU COMPLETELY." GOING ON, I WARNED HIM, THAT WERE THE SOVIETS TO BRING IN TROOPS INTO AFGHANISTAN, THIS WOULD VERY MUCH COMPLICATE AND HARM SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. HE NODDED HIS HEAD.

9. COMMENT: I CONSIDER SAFRONCHUK'S REMARKS SIGNIFICANT. I APPRECIATE THAT ONE COULD ARGUE THAT HIS DENIAL OF ANY SOVIET INTENTION TO INTERVENE PHYSICALLY WAS THE ONLY ANSWER A SOVIET DIPLOMAT COULD HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO GIVE TO MY QUESTION, AND FURTHER THAT THE QUOTATION FROM LENIN WAS HYPOCRITICAL IN THE LIGHT OF SOVIET ACTIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE. YET, REFLECTING ON OUR CONVERSATION, I THINK HE GENUINELY BELIEVED WHAT HE WAS TELLING ME, NAMELY THAT SOVIET PHYSICAL INTERVENTION WOULD BE MORE HARMFUL THAN HELPFUL FOR SOVIET INTERESTS, AND THEREFORE IT WOULD NOT OCCUR. AMSTUTZ
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